Amendments to the CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Process for producing enantiopure β-amino acid derivatives corresponding to general formula (I)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR3 (I)

in which

R1 and R2 independently denote organic residues or R1 and R2 together ~~optionally forming~~ form a cyclic substituent,

R3 denotes H or an organic residue, and

Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group,

comprising a step in which a mixture of enantiomers of a compound corresponding to general formula (II)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR4 (II)

in which

R1, R2 and Z are as defined for formula (I), and

R4 is an organic residue,

is subjected to hydrolysis in the presence of a **Pseudomonas cepacia** lipase.

2. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituents R1 and R2 in the compounds of general formula (I) and (II) form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH.

3. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 2, in which the heterocycle comprises at least one additional hetero atom.

4. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituent Z in the compound of general formula (II) is an amino function-protecting group.

5. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituent R4 in the compound of general formula (II) is a methyl or ethyl group.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the hydrolysis is carried out at a temperature of 0° to 50°C and a pH of 6 to 8.

8. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the amount of lipase used is 10 to 100 mg/mmol of compound of formula (II).

9. (Previously presented) Process for producing a peptide or a peptide analogue, according to which

(a) an enantiopure β-amino acid derivative is produced according to the process of Claim 1;

(b) the enantiopure β-amino acid derivative obtained is used to produce the peptide or the peptide analogue.

10. (Currently amended) Enantiopure β-amino acid derivative corresponding to general formula (I)

R1-NZ-CHR2-CH_2-COOR3 (I)

in which the substituents R1 and R2 form a 4, 5 or 6 heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH, said heterocycle comprising at least one additional hetero atom,

R3 denotes H or an organic residue, and

Z represents H or an amino function-protecting group.

11. (Currently amended) Enantiopure β-amino acid derivative according to Claim 10, in which the heterocycle comprises ~~from 5 to 7~~ from 5 or 6 atoms and the additional hetero atom is chosen from N, O, and S.

12. (Previously presented) Peptide or petide analogue which can be obtained using, in the process for producing it, an enantiopure β-amino acid derivative according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~.

13. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituents R1 and R2 in the compounds of general formula (I) and (II) form a heterocycle with the group N-Z-CH, said ring comprising from 4 to 8 atoms.

14. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 13, wherein said ring comprising from 5 to 7 atoms.

15. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 2, wherein said hetero atom is N, O or S.

16. (Previously presented) Process according to Claim 1, in which the substituent Z in the compound of general formula (II) is an amino function-protecting group which is an alkoxycarbonyl group, an aryloxycarbonyl group or an aralkoxycarbonyl group.

17. (New) The process according to Claim 13, wherein said ring comprising from 5 to 6 atoms.

18. (New) The process according to Claim 1, wherein R3 is a linear or branched alkyl or alkylene group which may contain a hetero atom.

19. (New) The process according to Claim 18, wherein R3 is an alkyl group.